

THE ROOKIE  
Episode 1 "Pilot"

FOXBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT, DAY

*JOHN NOLAN sits in his truck looking pensively at the papers in his hand; their heading is "DECREE OF DIVORCE" and they're stamped "FILED".*

STACY  
[TAPS ON CAR WINDOW]  
Bank's open, John.

JOHN NOLAN  
Thanks.

INT. BANK LOBBY

*NOLAN and STACY walk toward the back of the bank. STACY is obviously employed there.*

STACY  
So, Happy Divorce Day.

NOLAN  
That's not a thing.

STACY  
It should be. When mine went through, I took the boys to Disneyland.

NOLAN  
I'm not really feeling the Matterhorn.

STACY  
Try and look at this as an opportunity.

NOLAN  
Right now, I'm just trying to remember to wear pants. You know, I thought I'd be relieved. Sarah and I agreed to stay together until Henry went to college. I knew this was coming for two years.

*STACY takes NOLAN into the safe deposit vault and unlocks a box.*

STACY  
So, what have you always wanted to do?

NOLAN  
Uh, Chippendale's. Or the NFL. I'm not picky.

STACY  
I'm trying to help you, John.

NOLAN  
I bought a self-help book, but I had the cashier put it in a brown paper bag. Can't bring myself to open it. Who am I?

STACY  
I think the healthier question is "Who do you want to be?"

NOLAN  
When I figure it out, I'll let you know.

*STACY gives him a hug and leaves the vault. NOLAN opens his safe deposit box and puts the divorce papers and his wedding ring inside.*

*BANK ROBBERS enter the building, shouting and brandishing guns.*

BANK ROBBER  
Everybody on the floor now! Get down! Get down! Who's the bank manager? [STACY raises her hand] Come on. You got to move it, lady. Okay. Come on. [to BANK TELLER] Fill it. Now, hurry.

*BANK ROBBER knocks STACY to the ground.*

NOLAN  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

BANK ROBBER  
(to NOLAN)  
Hey! Get back down now!

NOLAN  
Stacy, you okay?

BANK ROBBER  
You want to die?!

NOLAN  
No. No.

BANK ROBBER  
Just keep your mouth shut. (to BANK TELLER) Move it.

*NOLAN sees that STACY is trying to get to the panic button behind her desk.*

NOLAN  
But, honestly- have I e-even really lived? I mean, life is always something that's happened to me. You know, I-I met a girl, I fell in love, stick turned blue, so I dropped out of college and I got a job,

but I never really thought about what could have been, never pushed myself to be anything. This bank robbery is - This is the most exciting thing that's happened to me in a lot of years. Is - Is that sad? 'cause it s-sounds sad.

*BANK ROBBER backhands NOLAN, who falls to his knees.*

NOLAN  
Ow!

BANK ROBBER  
If you get up again, I will kill you. You got that?

*NOLAN rises to his feet and keeps talking.*

NOLAN  
Hey, listen, not that you're at any position to judge. I mean, I mean, your life hasn't really turned out the way you wanted, has it? Unless you wanted to be bank robbers, in which case you're living the dream. I- I'm just saying, what's my dream?

*BANK ROBBER is about to pull the trigger when the POLICE burst into the building.*

POLICE OFFICER  
Police! Drop the gun! Drop that weapon! On the floor!

POLICE OFFICER  
Drop the gun! On the floor! Hands behind your back. You're okay. Get down. Get down.

STACY  
(to NOLAN)  
You were really just -

NOLAN  
Stupid?

STACY  
Brave.

OPENING TITLES: THE ROOKIE

EXT. POLICE STATION, DAY

"NINE MONTHS LATER"

*NOLAN walks up to a building whose sign says LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT / MID-WILSHIRE STATION.*

EXT. STREET IN LOS ANGELES, DAY

*LUCY CHEN is pushing her car down the street.*

BLAZE

Hey, Mama. That's a nice ride.

LUCY CHEN

Yeah.

BLAZE

I think I'm gonna have to take it off your hands.

*He shows her a gun tucked into his waistband.*

CHEN

Y-You're gonna steal my car - the one that broke down two blocks ago?

BLAZE

Yeah. Maybe take you for a spin, too.

INT. STATION

*CHEN drags BLAZE into the reception area.*

CHEN

Officer Chen reporting for duty.

INT. STATION - LOCKER ROOM

TIM BRADFORD

I love Rookie Day. It's Christmas and "The Purge" in one. And there's my first present. Morning, Boot.

JACKSON WEST

Good morning, sir.

BRADFORD

Did I say you could talk? You better pray I'm not your training officer, Boot, 'cause I'll make your life a living hell.

WEST

(brightly) Sir, I'd be thrilled to have you as a T.O. My father raised me to push myself to the edge of my abilities,- and he'd be deeply disappointed if I failed to do so now that I've joined him in service.

BRADFORD

Your father is - ?

WEST

Commander West of Internal Affairs, yes, sir.

BRADFORD  
(not impressed)  
Roll call in ten.

INT. STATION - STAIRS

*OFFICERS ANGELA LOPEZ and TALIA BISHOP are coming down the stairs.*

ANGELA LOPEZ  
You really gonna do me like that?

TALIA BISHOP  
Hey, the detective position's not yours yet. And youngest T.O. to youngest detective will move me up the ladder nicely. But if you can't stand a little competition...

LOPEZ  
Please, I grew up with four brothers in a two-bedroom. I'll be standing at the finish line before you even realize the competition's started.

*They pause for the elevator. JOHN NOLAN rushes down the hall past them.*

BISHOP  
Where you going, Boot?

NOLAN  
Uh, locker room, then roll call?

BISHOP  
Oh, no. You need to present yourself to the Captain first. It's tradition.

LOPEZ  
Down the hall, up the stairs.

NOLAN  
Uh, yeah. Thank you.

*LOPEZ and BISHOP share a smirk.*

INT. STATION - ANDERSEN'S OFFICE

*NOLAN enters and stands at attention before ANDERSEN's desk.*

CAPTAIN ZOE ANDERSEN

Can I help you?

NOLAN

Office John Nolan reporting for - duty?

ANDERSEN

Did you get punked, Officer Nolan?

NOLAN

No, ma'am. (realizing he did indeed get punked] I just -

ANDERSEN

Mm-hmm. (looking through a file) Your file confuses me, Officer Nolan. Penn State. Pre-law. But then twenty years in construction. Well, you got solid marks at the Academy. You certainly have a work ethic. Cholesterol level I've never seen in a rookie.

NOLAN

I'm something of a pioneer.

ANDERSEN

Do you think this is a joke?

NOLAN

No, ma'am. I'm here to work, and I won't let you down.

ANDERSEN

We'll see. Roll call is in five minutes, and the watch commander is a stickler. (a beat) Officer Nolan. I'd run.

INT. STATION - BRIEFING ROOM

SERGEANT WADE GREY

All right, all right. Settle down. Settle down. So, okay, we got some new blood this morning. And some pushing the expiration date. [LAUGHTER] (to the rookies) Get up. After six months together in the Academy, you've earned the right to be here. But you'll have to prove yourself to stay. The way we do things matters. Protocol and tradition are the metal from which every cop in this city is forged. Understand?

CHEN, NOLAN, WEST

Yes, sir.

GREY

Sit down. It's time to play the Training Officer match game. Our contestants are: Lucy Chen, a hotshot who made her first arrest before clocking in for work. Legacy Jackson West, who broke all his dad's records at the Academy. And John Nolan, who was born before disco died. [LAUGHTER] And the winners are: Officer Bradford, you get

our hotshot. Officer Lopez, you get our legacy. Leaving Officer Bishop to ride with the 40-year-old rookie. Now, hear me. Today is your first day. Don't let it be your last. Forget the Academy and listen to your T.O.s. They'll teach you the way it should be done. That's it. All right. Be safe out there. Officer Bishop, I need a word with your rook.

BISHOP  
Yes, sir.

*The room breaks up and GREY goes over to talk to NOLAN.*

GREY  
Enjoying your little adventure so far?

NOLAN  
Oh. Yes, sir.

GREY  
I don't care. I don't like you, Officer Nolan. It's not personal. I hate what you represent - a walking mid-life crisis. You see, the LAPD isn't a place for you to "find yourself". And I believe if you succeed, my house will be flooded with middle-aged losers looking for some kind of "Eat, Pray, Love" path to reinvention. And that will get my people killed.

NOLAN  
Sergeant, with respect -

GREY  
You're dismissed.

INT. STATION - HALLWAY

*NOLAN is carrying his and BISHOP's gear.*

BISHOP  
What did the watch commander want?

NOLAN  
To wish me luck.

BISHOP  
Boot, this relationship is gonna get off to a bad start if you lie to me.

NOLAN  
Sergeant Grey does not appear to be a fan of my presence in this department.

BISHOP

'Cause you're old as hell? Look, I don't give a damn about your age, Officer Nolan. I want to know if you're gonna be a speed bump on my path to chief of police.

NOLAN

No, ma'am. Six months ago, I packed everything I own into a U-Haul, moved here to become a cop. I got to work twice as fast, three times as hard. So I'm gonna make you look good.

BISHOP

Bit of an over-sharer, huh?

NOLAN

I'm told partners are supposed to have a special bond.

BISHOP

We're not partners.

EXT. STATION - ROOFTOP PARKING GARAGE, DAY

*Scene alternates between BISHOP, BRADFORD, and LOPEZ' vehicles.*

BISHOP

This is your shop. Do not call it a car. It is where you work.

BRADFORD

First you check the exterior for damage.

LOPEZ

Any nicks, scrapes, or dents, log 'em in.

BISHOP

Has the suspect left anything?

LOPEZ

Money?

BRADFORD

Drugs?

BISHOP

A dookie?

BRADFORD

Why aren't you taking notes, Officer Chen? You think I'm impressed because you picked some low-hanging fruit on your way to work?

BISHOP

Onto the shotgun safety check.

BRADFORD



Verify it's empty. Clear it.

BISHOP  
Close the action.

WEST  
We have police tape, road flares, spike strips.

LOPEZ  
You're making my job easy, Officer West.

WEST  
Body-cam test.

CHEN  
Officer Lucy Chen.

NOLAN  
(into his body cam)  
Officer Nolan. Yippee-ki-yay.

BISHOP  
What are you doing?

NOLAN  
Just check - Test, check.

BISHOP  
Now we're inside the car.

LOPEZ  
Log in to the computer.

BRADFORD  
Put in our serial number.

WEST  
Test lights and sirens.

BISHOP  
Finally, check yourself. You're about to hit the street with a loaded handgun and no idea what happens next.

DISPATCH  
7-Adam-15, family dispute, 1401 West Sycamore. Address has history of domestic calls.

BISHOP  
7-Adam-15, roger.

EXT. STREET, DAY

*BISHOP and NOLAN roll up to an ordinary-looking house.*

NOLAN

So, how do you want to do this?

BISHOP

Show me what you got.

NOLAN

(knocks on door)

Police. Open up.

*CARLO opens the door. His WIFE peers out from behind him.*

NOLAN

Sir, we've got a call about a disturbance. You all right, ma'am?

CARLO

She's fine. So you should leave.

NOLAN

Trying to make weight?

CARLO

What?

NOLAN

I used to wrestle a little bit in college. I see the plastic sticking out from under your sweat suit. Nothing my girlfriend hated more than when I was trying to make fighting weight. Like my misery was contagious. You know what I mean? (chuckles) Yeah, I can give you a few tips if you'd like. Probably better, though, if the wife doesn't hear, right?

EXT. STREET, DAY

*LOPEZ and WEST roll up to an expensive house in a posh neighborhood.*

LOPEZ

(knocks on door)

Police! (WOMAN opens the door, wearing a bathrobe) Ma'am, we got a call about a possible burglary in process.

WOMAN

I didn't call anyone.

[GLASS SHATTERS IN DISTANCE]

LOPEZ

Watch her.

WEST  
Copy.

*LOPEZ runs around the corner to the back of the house, where someone is trying to escape by climbing out an upstairs window.*

LOPEZ  
Hi. LAP-

*The suspect falls off the roof and into a tree.*

EXT. STREET — PATROL CAR

BRADFORD  
So, why do you want to be a cop?

CHEN  
Is this a trick question?

BRADFORD  
You want me to train you, I need to know why you're in this car.

CHEN  
Okay. Um, my parents are both therapists, so I spent my childhood talking about my feelings -

*Tires screech as BRADFORD slams on the brakes.*

BRADFORD  
I've been shot!

CHEN  
Wh -

BRADFORD  
Where are you, Boot?!

CHEN  
What?

BRADFORD  
I'm bleeding to death. You have to call for help. Where are you?

CHEN  
Uh -

BRADFORD  
Where are you?!

CHEN

Um -

BRADFORD

Now I'm dead. It's your fault. Get out.

CHEN

What?

BRADFORD

Get out and walk. You can get back in when you know where you are.

INT. HOUSE - DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

*BISHOP is inside talking to the WIFE.*

BISHOP

Look, I've had this conversation more times than I can count, and the result is always the same. When he hits you, press charges. If you don't, eventually, he'll kill you.

WIFE

You got it wrong. My husband just looks aggro. Most of the time, he's a block of wood, emotionally speaking. I push his buttons just to rile him up.

*NOLAN is outside talking to CARLO.*

NOLAN

You can't take things out on her, no matter how much she pushes your buttons.

CARLO

She's the one that throws down. Hell, that that girl's got a crazy temper.

NOLAN

Meaning what? That she hits you?

CARLO

No, no, she, sh-she knows better than that.

*BISHOP exits the house.*

BISHOP

You good out here?

CARLO

Yeah.

BISHOP

7-Adam-15, code 4, show us clear.

NOLAN  
What do you think?

BISHOP  
That we'll be back.

EXT. STREET — ROBBERY CALL

WEST  
Let me get this straight. You sneak into houses to have sex, not to rob them?

WOMAN  
Yeah. It's a fetish.

WEST  
Right.

*He puts the woman in the back seat of the shop and closes the door.*

LOPEZ  
(to WEST)  
Shame we can only charge them with misdemeanor trespass.

WEST  
There's evidence of a burglary.

LOPEZ  
They didn't take anything.

WEST  
Took a shower. We can charge a 459, just for stealing the water.

LOPEZ  
That's a novel approach.

WEST  
Thank you, ma'am. I'd say I'm the best-prepared rookie in the history of the LA -

*There's moaning inside the patrol car, which is rocking rhythmically.*

WEST  
Are they having sex in our shop?

LOPEZ  
Damn it! Hey! Knock it off! Don't do that!

EXT. STREET

*CHEN is walking alongside the patrol car that BRADFORD is driving.*

BRADFORD

You know where you are yet, Officer Chen? No? Then finish your story why you became a cop. Here, I'll do it for you. You wanted to piss off your parents for making you an emotional science experiment.

*A vehicle behind them honks their horn. A small truck has stopped behind the patrol car; inside are three men who look like laborers singing along with the radio. BRADFORD gets out of the patrol car and walks up to the driver of the truck.*

BRADFORD

Gentlemen, I have an honest question for you. Were you grown in a Petri dish of stupid?

DRIVER

(In Spanish)

*Please, I don't speak English -*

BRADFORD

Don't pull that crap with me.

CHEN

(In Spanish)

*License and registration, please.*

BRADFORD

Well, aren't you fancy? Tell him that it's immigrants like them that make Americans like you look bad. If it was up to me, we'd send them all back by catapult.

CHEN

Um - (In Spanish, to men in truck) *He said you should probably avoid honking at the police when your truck is in violation of most state vehicle codes.*

BRADFORD

Officer Chen, a word? (They step aside.) Do I strike you as a man who means what he says?

CHEN

Yes, sir.

BRADFORD

Do I seem laid-back to you? Wishy-washy in any way?

CHEN

No, sir.

BRADFORD

(in Spanish) *In that case, why would you change the words that come out of my mouth?* (in English) Everything is a test, Officer Chen, and you just got another "F". I know what you're thinking - was that casual racism a test, too, or just the Spanish? Unfortunately for you, there's no way to know.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, DAY

*Traffic is stopped. A man is screaming as he stands on a car with a baseball bat in his hand.*

UNICORN FATHER

Come on! You think you're so smart! You think I don't know what you're doing?! I went to Harvard, Yale, the Vatican!

BISHOP

Sir, you need to put down the bat!

UNICORN FATHER

You can't hide from me! I will go into the wardrobe through the looking glass!

NOLAN

(to BISHOP)

So, what do we do?

BISHOP

De-escalate the situation.

NOLAN

(to the man with the bat)

Sir, how about you tell me what the problem is?

UNICORN FATHER

The unicorn is laughing at me!

NOLAN

Okay, great, we can help you with that. We just need you to get down off the car.

UNICORN FATHER

No. No, you're trying to trick me. No. You don't want me to find him.

NOLAN

Sir, I can handle unicorns, all right? This is what we train for. I just need you to get off the car and give me a description so we can find him. Exactly. Yeah, just jump down. Put the bat down right there. [UNICORN FATHER drops the bat.] Excellent. Perfect. What's your name? (a beat) What's your name?

*UNICORN FATHER turns and runs.*

BRADFORD

Go get him, Boot.

*NOLAN pursues on foot; CHEN joins in the chase. Several blocks later, NOLAN tries a shortcut but gets tangled in a chain on a locked gate. On the other side of the gate, CHEN tackles the fugitive and cuffs him.*

UNICORN FATHER

Please let go of me! You have to let me go! You don't know what you're doing! You don't know what you're doing! You don't know what you're doing! I have to find him! Help me! I have to find him! The unicorn! The unicorn!

*BRADFORD has arrived on scene and releases the lock, freeing NOLAN.*

BRADFORD

Welcome to the arrest.

UNICORN FATHER

I have to I have to find him! [CELLPHONE RINGING] He needs me!

BISHOP

Who needs you?

UNICORN FATHER

Lucas! I can't find him! [RINGING CONTINUES] Please, let go of me!

BISHOP

(answering UNICORN FATHER's cell phone) Hi, this is Officer Bishop - Y-Yes, ma'am, I'm with your husband now. Slow down.

UNICORN FATHER

Lucas!

BISHOP

(into the phone) Who's Lucas?

UNICORN FATHER

Lucas needs me!

BISHOP

Sir, where is your boy?

UNICORN FATHER

I only left him in the car for a minute. The unicorn has him.

NOLAN

That car is gonna be an oven. We got to find that unicorn.



INT. PATROL CAR — BISHOP/NOLAN

DISPATCH

Be advised, the suspect vehicle is a gray Corolla. License plate Two Paul Charles —

NOLAN

There has got to be a better way of doing this than just driving around.

BISHOP

We got an airship and six cars working a grid pattern. There's no fancy tricks in patrol.

INT. PATROL CAR — LOPEZ/WEST

WEST

Are we sure the kid's still in the car?

LOPEZ

I hope not. It's almost 90.

INT. PATROL CAR — BISHOP/NOLAN

NOLAN

We have got to find this kid.

BISHOP

Pray we don't. (off NOLAN's look) Seeing a dead kid changes you.

NOLAN

Gray Corolla, right there! (He jumps out and looks through the car window) It's the wrong car.

*He spots a shop with unicorn balloons and pinatas hanging in front, then sees another gray Corolla and runs across the street toward it. There's a child in the back seat who looks unconscious.*

NOLAN

Oh, no.

*NOLAN frantically tries the door handles on the car. BISHOP walks up with a tool and breaks the window; NOLAN pulls an unresponsive LUCAS out of the car.*

NOLAN

(pleading)

Come on! Geez! Okay, buddy...Hey. Hey, come on, buddy. Come on. Come on, buddy. Come on. Come on. Wake up. Come on.

LUCAS  
[GASPS]

NOLAN  
Hey...Hey! Hey. [LAUGHING] Hey!

LUCAS  
(waking up confused)  
Mommy.

NOLAN  
Come on. Let's go find your mommy. Come on.

LUCAS  
Mommy, daddy.

NOLAN  
Yeah, we're gonna find them. Okay? We're gonna find them for you.

[LATER]

NOLAN  
Man, my heart is still pounding.

BISHOP  
You feeling good about yourself?

NOLAN  
Shouldn't I be?

BISHOP  
You stopped thinking, kept trying to open a car door even after you knew it was locked, used the wrong tool to try and break the window. Those lost seconds didn't matter this time, but they may in the future. So celebrate the victory, but recognize you got work to do.

NOLAN  
Understood.

BISHOP  
You tired, Officer Nolan?

NOLAN  
No, ma'am.

BISHOP  
Good, 'cause we got eight hours left on our shift.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK AREA

BISHOP  
First day you buy, Boot.

NOLAN  
Okay. What do you want?

BISHOP  
Surprise me. And you will be judged on your choice.

NOLAN  
So, how was everyone's morning? Having fun yet?

WEST  
Think someone could use a hug.

CHEN  
Don't you dare.

NOLAN  
Whoa. What's wrong?

WEST  
Uh, her T.O.'s utilizing time-tested practices to intimidate her.

NOLAN  
Oh, well, that's their job, right? They've got to get inside our heads, push our buttons, see how we react. It's not personal. Just turn it around and figure out what makes your training officer tick.

CHEN  
You make it sound easy.

NOLAN  
Piece of cake.

CHEN  
Really?

NOLAN  
Mm-hmm.

CHEN  
Then I guess you already know what your T.O. wants for lunch.

BISHOP  
How's your day going, Angela? 'Cause I saved a kid. Probably gonna make the paper tomorrow.

LOPEZ

Mm. You're so cute trying to get under my skin.

BRADFORD

Trying? She's already under. Just like you're under hers.

LOPEZ

What the hell are you talking about?

BREADFORD

You've wanted to be a detective since you were a kid. Talia just wants it 'cause it's a stepping stone to the top. And that pisses you off. Meanwhile, she knows your ability to be mercenary gives you a leg up 'cause she's got an overdeveloped sense of morality, which gets in her way.

BISHOP and LOPEZ

Shut up.

BRADFORD

Well, I don't know why the hell you two are so determined to get out of patrol. This is where all the fun is.

*The rookies come up to deliver their lunches.*

BRADFORD

You didn't forget the hot sauce, did you, Boot?

BISHOP

Is there meat in this?

NOLAN

Uh... no?

DISPATCH

7-Adam-15, return to 1401 West Sycamore. Situation has escalated.

BISHOP

Told you we'd be back.

NOLAN

[Knocks on door] Open up! Police!

[WOMAN SCREAMING INSIDE]

*NOLAN and BISHOP go around to the back door; BISHOP kicks it open and NOLAN is the first through the door. They see CARLO staggering around the living room with his WIFE on his back.*

NOLAN

Come here!

*He wrestles with the WIFE, who is stabbing CARLO in the neck as she clings to his back. Eventually the WIFE is pried off and CARLO falls to the floor bleeding. NOLAN goes to him while BISHOP subdues the WIFE.*

TALIA

Nolan, look out! Not without gloves!

WIFE

No! Carlo!

NOLAN

(to CARLO)

Easy. Stay with me, all right? Stay calm.

BISHOP

7-Adam-15.

NOLAN

Just stay calm.

BISHOP

Requesting an RA unit to 1401 West Sycamore for a male suffering multiple stab wounds.

NOLAN

Just stay calm, okay? Shh. Just stay calm. You're gonna be all right. Stay with me. Stay with me.

*He watches as CARLO dies.*

EXT. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE, NIGHT

BISHOP

You all right? Officer Nolan. You all right?

NOLAN

Yeah. Um... The husband hinted that the wife was abusive, but I- I didn't push it.

BISHOP

Worst thing you can do is think, not act. You got to trust your instincts, even if I ultimately tell you that you're wrong.

GREY

You all right, Officer Nolan? I heard it got real in there.

NOLAN

Yes, sir, I'm fine.

GREY

Good. Why don't you go start the paperwork while I talk to your T.O.

NOLAN  
Yes, sir.

*NOLAN steps away and GREY turns to BISHOP.*

GREY  
So, how'd he do?

BISHOP  
He dove right in even though there was a knife.

GREY  
Good for him. But maybe not so good for us. You know why rookies are best trained young, Officer Bishop? Because kids don't know anything. 40-year-olds? They think they know everything. Training them's like turning an oil tanker. Odds are, it ain't gonna happen before tragedy strikes.

INT. BAR, NIGHT

CHEN  
To the first day.

WEST  
Mm.

NOLAN  
First day.

*They toast.*

CHEN  
You want to talk about it?

NOLAN  
No. (pause) I felt him die. A guy I- I was just talking to. And I thought I was ready, but I don't think anything can prepare you for that.

WEST  
I saw my first body when I was 10. My dad took me to the morgue, pulled a drawer, and there was this kid, maybe 18. O.D.'d on oxy.

CHEN  
That's some questionable parenting right there.

WEST

I'm sorry. Didn't your folks put you in therapy at the same age?

CHEN

They were trying to teach me coping skills.

WEST

Yeah, so was my dad. You know, this job is a magnifying glass. It reveals everything, especially the parts you're trying to hide.

WAITRESS

Okay. Here you go.

NOLAN

Thank you.

WAITRESS

Can I get you anything else?

CHEN

Not right now. Thanks. (waitress walks away) Wow. I've never seen a real badge bunny before.

NOLAN

Well, she's just being friendly.

CHEN

You really are struggling. 'Cause she practically handed you her panties.

NOLAN

I'm fine.

CHEN

Hey, listen to me. What happened wasn't your fault. That guy was never going to admit a woman was kicking his ass. It wouldn't have mattered if you'd said anything to Bishop, and if she said any different, then she was just flat-out wrong.

NOLAN

Thank you.

CHEN

You're welcome.

ANNOUNCER

It's karaoke hour. First up, Jackson and Lucy.

WEST/CHEN

Whoo, here we go.

*WEST and CHEN grab their beers and get up on stage for karaoke. The*

*waitress drops a napkin with her phone number on it in front of  
NOLAN.*

EXT. NOLAN'S HOUSE, MORNING

*The camera pans over the landscape, which is adorned with several  
articles of clothing, including a bra. NOLAN is setting food out on a  
table inside; the entire front of the unit is plate-glass.*

NOLAN

Tell me again why we can't go out for breakfast?

CHEN

Because someone from the station might see us, and two months of  
quality sneaking around would go out the window.

NOLAN

Oh.

CHEN

Yeah.

NOLAN

Yeah.

CHEN

Mm.

*They kiss.*

EXT. NOLAN'S HOUSE - LAWN

NOLAN

Wish we didn't have to be so secretive.

CHEN

It's sweet you want to go steady, but, uh, I'm only dating you for  
this view.

NOLAN

Oh. (chuckles) Good to know our relationship is dependent on renting  
my college roommate's fancy guest house.

CHEN

It's not entirely dependent. I mean, you are kind of hot, and the  
"against the rules" part is a turn-on, so.

NOLAN

Uh, it actually won't be if Sergeant Grey finds out.

CHEN



Well, I'm not gonna tell him. Are you?

NOLAN

I'm being serious. That guy is gunning for me.

CHEN

Look, this kind of obstacle's new to you, but it's status quo for me. You're a novelty item right now, but in 13 months, you'll be a P2, and the cops will treat you like one of the guys, but I'll- I'll have to prove myself to every cop I work with.

NOLAN

Fair enough. We'll keep it under the radar. I just don't want to screw it up.

CHEN

Me neither.

INT. STATION — BRIEFING ROOM

GREY

So, all right, all right. Settle down. I just got a disturbing video. Never seen anything so horrific. So prepare yourselves.

*The video shows NOLAN's difficulties with the locked gate while chasing UNICORN FATHER.*

NOLAN (on video)

[PANTING] [RATTLING] [GRUNTING]

*Give me a sec.*

GREY

Such grace and athleticism has never before been seen in the LAPD. Is that a gazelle wearing the blues? Or a dinosaur from a long forgotten age? Now you will see Officer Chen execute a perfect flying tackle.

[APPLAUSE] All right, fun's over.

This is a BOLO for Mr. Lance Selby, who violated his parole yesterday. Scale from 1 to 10, this guy's a 12. Did a nickel for attempted murder with a claw hammer. So whoever gets him off the street will get a sincere handshake and Super Bowl Sunday off. That's it. Be safe out there.

INT. PATROL CAR — BISHOP/NOLAN

BISHOP

What are you doing?

NOLAN

I'm just looking into the BOLO that Grey handed out. Found a known associate in our patrol zone. Darius Nguyen.

BISHOP  
We're not detectives, Officer Nolan.

NOLAN  
No, but I do believe detective is a necessary stop on the way to chief.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

BRADFORD  
I've decided on your punishment.

CHEN  
Are you gonna tell me what it is?

BRADFORD  
More of a "show you" kind of guy. (to man on sidewalk) Ghost Head.  
(as the man tries to walk away) No, no, hold up a minute.

GHOST HEAD  
Yo, this is harassment.

BRADFORD  
What? No, it's just good customer service. Kind of like a frequent flyer program for dirt-bag drug dealers. Search him, Boot.

CHEN  
Uh- Turn around, grab the wall.

GHOST HEAD  
Make me, Boot.

*Struggle ensues.*

BRADFORD  
Keep your hands up, Chen. Don't let him get on top of you!  
*CHEN gets GHOST HEAD face down on the pavement and cuffs him.*

CHEN  
You're under arrest. (to BRADFORD) That was my punishment?

BRADFORD  
Yep. Plus I got to see if you could handle yourself, so it's really a two-fer.

INT. PHOENIX GYM

DARIUS NGUYEN

Is there a problem, Officer?

NOLAN/BISHOP  
This your gym?

NGUYEN  
Yeah.

NOLAN  
(shows him a photo) You see this guy around?

NGUYEN  
Detectives came by yesterday. Told them I haven't seen Selby since before he went away.

*NOLAN strolls over to what looks like a utility access cupboard.*

NOLAN  
You know, I've built everything, from mansions to an honest-to-God outhouse. But I've never seen a circuit breaker installed next to a water pipe.

*He opens the door and finds cash, a weapon, and packets of drugs.*

BISHOP  
Mm. You sure you don't know where Selby's at?

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE

*CHEN is hauling GHOST HEAD toward the patrol car.*

BRADFORD  
(to GHOST HEAD)  
When you're telling this story in lock up, you might want to leave out the part where you got your ass kicked by a girl.

*A woman, ISABEL, comes running out of the store and confronts the police.*

ISABEL  
Hey! Hey! Hey, let him go! Come on.

BRADFORD  
(stunned; to CHEN) You all right here? For real. (to ISABEL) Isabel?

ISABEL  
Leave him alone.

BRADFORD  
Isab- Isabel- it it's it's me. It's Tim. It's okay. I've been trying to find you just- just to make sure you were okay. Are you okay?

ISABEL  
I'm fine. I'm fine! Get off me!

BRADFORD  
I just want to help. (desperate) I just want to help.

ISABEL  
You want to help me?

BRADFORD  
Yeah.

ISABEL  
Give me all your cash.

BRADFORD  
What?

ISABEL  
Give me your money.

BRADFORD  
God, I'll get you rehab.

ISABEL  
I don't need rehab! Come on. Please.

*BRADFORD digs cash from his pocket and gives it to her. She runs away.*

CHEN  
Hey. What- What do you want me to do with this guy?

BRADFORD  
Just let him go.

CHEN  
(incredulous) Let him go.

*She releases GHOST HEAD and gets in the car.*

BRADFORD  
Let's go.

CHEN  
What the hell just happened?

BRADFORD

That was my wife. I haven't seen her in almost a year.

CHEN  
I won't tell anyone.

BRADFORD  
You're damn right you won't.

INT. PATROL CAR — BISHOP/NOLAN

BISHOP  
7-Adam-15. Requesting additional unit to meet us at 1350 Bellevue Street. Possible location of our BOLO suspect. We are en route.

BRADFORD  
7-Adam-19. Show us responding.

BISHOP (on radio)  
7-Adam-19, be advised, we are approximately five minutes away.

*BRADFORD and CHEN cruise down a residential street.*

BRADFORD  
That's the address for Selby. All right, we'll set up in the alley behind in case Selby rabbits when Bishop and Nolan come calling.

*They pull up in the alley and see a man standing next to a car with the trunk open.*

CHEN  
That's our guy, Selby.

BRADFORD  
Call it in. Backup and airship.

CHEN  
7-Adam-19. Show us code 6 on BOLO suspect. (on radio) Need backup and airship.

NOLAN  
They got him.

EXT. ALLEY

BRADFORD  
No, no, no, you stay here till we clear them from that car. LAPD, gentlemen. Step away from the car and show me your hands.

SELBY

There a problem, officer?

BRADFORD

There will be if you don't show me those hands. Now!

*SELBY and his companion pull weapons out of the trunk of the car they're standing behind and open fire. BRADFORD and CHEN return fire, and BRADFORD is hit in his midsection. CHEN gets around to his side of the car and drags him back out of the direct line of fire.*

CHEN

7-Adam-19. Officer down. Shots fired. In the alley of Bellevue and Clinton. I repeat, officer down! Please send help right away!

BRADFORD

Don't worry about me! Shoot back!

*SELBY's companion jumps into another car and starts to drive away down the alley, swerves to avoid BISHOP and NOLAN's car, and ends up crashing into a parked car. BISHOP and NOLAN pull up, get out and find the man passed out in the driver's seat of the getaway car.*

NOLAN

You good?

BISHOP

Yeah. Cover me, and I'll cuff him.

*Instead, NOLAN runs to check on BRADFORD and CHEN.*

BISHOP

Nolan, wait!

*CHEN sees that the patrol car has caught fire and she starts to drag BRADFORD to better cover. SELBY sees them and takes aim, only to be surprised by NOLAN firing at him from behind.*

*BISHOP leans into the car to cuff the suspect, who has been pretending to be unconscious and who grabs her. They wrestle and eventually BISHOP subdues him and handcuffs him.*

NOLAN

(to BRADFORD) You okay?

BRADFORD

No! I got shot! [GROANS, COUGHS] You go get him, Boot! Just go!

*NOLAN and CHEN exchange a look as BISHOP comes running up.*

BISHOP

When this is over, we're gonna have a conversation about you running off. Where's Selby?

NOLAN

He went through the alley.

BISHOP

Suspect heading northbound towards residence on Clinton Street.

WEST

7-Adam-07 arriving on scene.

*LOPEZ and WEST pull up and get out of the patrol car. LOPEZ returns fire as they shelter behind the car. WEST stays on the ground, frozen, with a panicky expression on his face.*

LOPEZ

Officer West, get out your gun and cover me! [GUNFIRE] Damn it! Get your ass up and engage the suspect! Get up!

*WEST cowers, staring, as the suspect runs off and spots a woman walking alone.*

SELBY

Hey! Hey!- (grabbing the woman)

HOSTAGE

Help!

*SELBY's gun clicks; he's out of ammo. He draws a knife and presses it to the HOSTAGE's throat. NOLAN, BISHOP, and CHEN come running up.*

NOLAN

Selby!

SELBY

I'll kill her!

NOLAN

Drop it! Drop the knife!

SELBY

I'll kill her! Shut up!

NOLAN

You don't have to do this. You shot a cop, but it seems you only managed to piss him off. You're not a murderer yet.

SELBY

Get back!

NOLAN  
I can't do that!

SELBY  
Now!

NOLAN  
I can't do that! Look, Selby, we are in this moment together, all right? What happens next could change both of our lives. Look, I became a cop to help people, not kill them. But if you hurt her, I will pull this trigger, and you will die. I'll see your face every time I close my eyes, but you'll never see anything ever again. (starts lowering his gun) Here's what we're gonna do. I'm gonna lower my gun, and you're gonna let her go, okay? Nice and easy. Lower that knife. Nice and easy. You're gonna let her go. I'm lowering my-

*NOLAN shoots SELBY in the leg. SELBY falls to the ground, releasing the HOSTAGE. NOLAN rushes to cuff him.*

NOLAN  
Facedown! Facedown! Put your hands behind your back!

BISHOP  
Call it in, Officer Nolan.

NOLAN  
(into radio) Suspect in custody. Code 4.

*BISHOP turns just in time to see CHEN go over and take NOLAN's hand.*

INT. STATION

*NOLAN walks down the hall and sees BISHOP coming down the stairs.*

NOLAN  
Hey. What's the word on Tim?

BISHOP  
He's out of surgery.

GREY  
Officer Nolan. I heard you left your partner. Almost got her killed. See, I knew your mid-life crisis would put my people in harm's way. You're done, Officer Nolan.

NOLAN  
Sergeant Grey, I-

GREY



I said go home!

INT. STATION - ANDERSEN'S OFFICE

GREY

You wanted to see me?

ANDERSEN

Nolan was trying to save two fellow officers.

GREY

It doesn't matter. He left his partner.

ANDERSEN

You tell a guy that he's not wanted on the first day, he's gonna throw caution to the wind to prove himself.

GREY

Are you saying this is my fault?

ANDERSEN

I'm saying he deserves a chance.

GREY

Why? Because you had him assigned here? Yeah, I heard. The boot no one wanted except you.

ANDERSEN

That's right. I think there's value in having a rookie with his perspective. Lives were saved today because of it. You're dismissed.

*GREY encounters NOLAN on the street outside the building.*

NOLAN

You were right. I did come here looking for reinvention. I didn't understand what it meant to be a cop. It takes sacrifice.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

*BISHOP is waiting for CHEN at her car.*

BISHOP

I know about you and Nolan. And you were right to keep it secret, but you're wrong to keep it going. It'll brand you. No matter how good you are or how hard you work. Break things off before it's too late.

NOLAN

(voice over)

Demands strength when you feel your weakest.

INT. STATION - LOCKER ROOM

*LOPEZ confronts WEST.*

LOPEZ

If you don't have what it takes on the streets, then you're not a cop. Freeze up again, and you're done. I'll call up your dad and tell him myself.

EXT. STATION - SIDEWALK

NOLAN

I thought I had to become someone else to do this job, that who I was before wasn't good enough. I was wrong. I earned my place here. And I'm not leaving.

GREY

You know why I do this job, Officer Nolan?

NOLAN

Because you're a people person?

GREY

(chuckles)

No. This job is my calling. And I have a responsibility to protect it from those who are unworthy.

NOLAN

I understand.

GREY

Good. Then understand I will haze, harass, and humiliate you every chance I get in the hope that you choose to abandon this misguided quest.

NOLAN

And if this job actually is my calling?

GREY

Then nothing I do to you will matter.

INT. STATION - HALLWAY

WEST

I'm sorry.

LOPEZ

You gonna leave me again?

WEST

No.

LOPEZ

Then we're good.

INT. STATION - BRIEFING ROOM, DAY

ANDERSEN

Okay, let's get to it. Officer Bradford should be getting out of intensive care today. If you have some time after your shift, I'm sure he won't appreciate it.

[LAUGHTER]

*GREY erases the white board, leaving just the word "TODAY".*

GREY

Today. See, every day, we start fresh, because we can't affect the past. But we damn sure can make a difference today. All right. There was a carjacking last night on Western and Wilshire. Description matches the crew we've been hunting, so we need to hunt smarter. Lopez and West, I want you to live in that RD today. So Bishop and Nolan, coordinate with the robbery table...